



Notes from the Director

No. 38

29 January 1979

PRESIDENT HONORS LESLIE C. DIRKS

Leslie C. Dirks, the Deputy Director for Science and Technology, was presented the National Security Medal by President Carter on 25 January 1979 at a White House ceremony. He joins the select company of only 23 other distinguished Americans who have received this prestigious award over the last 25 years.

The National Security Medal is awarded by the President for distinguished achievement or outstanding contribution in the field of intelligence relating to the national security. The award was established by President Truman in 1953 at the suggestion of then—DCI General Bedell Smith. Over the years recipients of the award have included Edward G. Lansdale, John Edgar Hoover, and William Joseph Donovan, in addition to a number of former Directors of Central Intelligence.

At a ceremony in the President's office in the White House with Les's family, friends and associates present, the President asked me to read this citation:

"The National Security Medal presented in recognition of meritorious service performed in a position of high responsibility is awarded to Leslie C. Dirks in recognition of his significant contribution in creating and directing a major technical intelligence program of the highest national importance. The leadership and creativity which he displayed resulted in an extraordinary scientific accomplishment of extreme value to the Intelligence Community and to the nation. His sustained outstanding performance and dedicated service leading to the success of this effort has enhanced our national security and furthers the goal of excellence in public service. His accomplishment reflects the highest credit on him, the Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Service."

President Carter then pinned the National Security Medal on Les.

I know you all join me in proudly extending heartiest congratulations to Les Dirks for this richly deserved recognition of his dedication and accomplishment. This Presidential award honors not only him, but also all of us, and especially those who contributed to the major technical intelligence program under his leadership.